

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 259140  
ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 PM-05 COME-00 DODE-00 NSF-02  
/029 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/MST:WERB:MJB  
APPROVED BY OES/OFA/MST:WERB  
ARA/AND/E - MR. ALLITTO  
-----006787 292229Z /62

R 291045Z OCT 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO  
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

UNCLAS STATE 259140

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TGEN, TBIO, CO

SUBJECT: R/V ALPHA HELIX CLEARANCE REQUEST, 29 JAN -  
15 FEB 1978

1. R/V ALPHA HELIX, A PRIVATE VESSEL OPERATED BY SCRIPPS INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY AND FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, IS PLANNING TO CONDUCT MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WITHIN VARIOUS BAYS OF THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS. ISLANDS TO BE VISITED INCLUDE SAN SALVADOR, ISABELA, FERNANDINA, SANTA MARIA, SANTA CRUZ AND SAN CRISTOBAL. SOME SMALLER ISLANDS MAY ALSO BE VISITED IF THEY APPEAR SUITABLE FOR COLLECTING PURPOSES.

2. THE OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH ARE TO STUDY DIDEMNID ASCIDIANS HARBORING PROCHLOROPHYTIC GREEN ALGAE AND TO STUDY THE ONLY KNOWN OCEAN INSECT - HALOBATES. VARIOUS SPECIES OF DIDEMNID ASCIDIANS WILL BE COLLECTED FOR TAXONOMIC PURPOSES CONCENTRATING ON THOSE SPECIES WHICH  
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CONTAIN PROCHLOROPHYTIC GREEN ALGAE. SPECIMENS OF ALL INSECTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT WILL BE COLLECTED AND PRESERVED. IF TIME PERMITS, LAND INSECTS WILL BE COLLECTED, SINCE THE INSECT FAUNA OF THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS IS NOT WELL KNOWN. LARGE NUMBERS OF HALOBATES WILL BE COLLECTED FROM THE MANGROVE AREAS

AROUND SEVERAL OF THE ISLANDS. THE ONLY EQUIPMENT TO BE USED WILL BE SNORKELS AND SMALL NYLON HAND AQUARIUM NETS. AFTER SAMPLES HAVE BEEN SORTED AND IDENTIFIED, A REFERENCE COLLECTION WILL BE DEPOSITED AT THE DARWIN STATION OR IN A MUSEUM DESIGNATED BY THE ECUADOREAN GOVERNMENT.

3. A BERTH IS AVAILABLE FOR ONE GOE PARTICIPANT AND ALL DATA RESULTS WILL BE FREELY SHARED. THE PARTICIPANT MUST ARRIVE AT BALTRA ON 27 JAN. ABOARD THE ONLY AVAILABLE PLANE IN ORDER TO EMBARK ALPHA HELIX. HE WOULD DEBARK AT BALTRA ON 10 FEB. OR AT BALBOA 15 FEB. AND WOULD BE REQUIRED TO MAKE HIS OWN TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS.

4. A SHIP'S TRACK AND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION ON THE RESEARCH PLAN AND OBJECTIVES IS BEING POUCHED.

5. THE CHIEF SCIENTIST IS DR. LANNA CHENG OF SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY WITH A SCIENTIFIC PARTY OF

12. SHIP'S CAPTAIN IS ROBERT C. NEWBEGIN WITH A CREW OF

12. ALPHA HELIX IS 296 GROSS TONS, 133 FT. LONG, AND HAS A 13 FT. DRAFT. RADIO CALL SIGN IS KLFK AND SHIP MONITORS 2182 KHZ WHILE UNDERWAY.

6. PORT CALLS ARE PLANNED AT BALBOA, CANAL ZONE ON 15 FEB. AND AT BALTRA ON 29 JAN. AND 10 FEB. A SHIP'S AGENT WILL ARRANGE THE PORT CALLS.

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7. ACTION: EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO SEEK CLEARANCE FOR ALPHA HELIX TO CONDUCT MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN ECUADOREAN WATERS DURING 29 JAN - 15 FEB 1978. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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